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SOUTHERN

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The N.A.S.C. QUARTERLY

1998 / NUMBER 2



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THE N.A.S.C. QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the Numismatic Association of Southern California
1998 / Volume 40 / Number 2

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Calendar of Events

Coin & Collectible Shows

September 5 - 6
Pasadena

Golden State Coin Show
Pasadena Center

September 13
Ventura

**38th Coin-A-Rama
Coin & Collectibles Show**
1050 Schooner Drive

September 24 -27
Long Beach

L B Coin and Collectible Expo
Convention Center
100 S. Pine Ave.

October 31 &
November 1
Buena Park

SCPNA Show
Retail Clerks Hall
8550 Stanton Ave.

Due Date for Quarterly: **October 15th**

1998 NASC Board Meetings

August 30

November 29

All meetings start at 1:00 p.m. and are held at:

Veterans Memorial Center
4117 Overland Ave. (Culver & Overland)
Culver City, CA

Visit the NASC Web site at:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~beedon/nasc.htm>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The NASC Positive Forces are at work again. Our Vice President, Harold Katzman, has re-instituted NASC's 2-day Grading Workshop. Harold has worked tirelessly with the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) to set this program up. It will take place on October 25 & 26, Saturday & Sunday, this year from 8 p.m. to

5 p.m. The topic is "GRADING U.S. COINS from 1 CENT to 1 DOLLAR." The Workshop leader will be Rick Montgomery, president of the PCGS. He will conduct the program at the Kellogg West Education Center at Cal Poly, Pomona University, Pomona, CA. NASC member cost is only \$110, non-member cost is \$135, and Juniors (15 - 17) is \$75. This fee includes two lunches and two daily refreshment breaks. The seating is limited to 40 participants maximum. Send your reservation and check to Harold to reserve your spot. His Tustin address is listed here in with the NASC officers.

Another major numismatic event to put on your calendar is the Golden State Coin Show. This show as in the past will be held at the Pasadena Center on Green Street in Pasadena. The dates are Sat and Sun, Sept. 5th and 6th. Here is your chance to "fill that hole" in your coin cabinet. Dealers from all over will be present to offer you their wares. The displays, as usual, are promising to again be outstanding. Should any of you like to extend your numismatic adventures by actively participating during these two days, contact: Bill Grant, General Chairman; P.O. Box 295; Patton, CA 92369 or me. The GSCS committee is ready to bring onboard, anyone who wants to broaden his/her knowledge as to how such a show is put on. And besides it's entertaining and fun.

See you Numismatically soon.

G. Lee Kuntz *Lee*

From the Corresponding Secretary

NEW MEMBERS:

| | | |
|--------|----------------|------------------------------|
| # 2929 | Kenneth Arnold | (sponsored by William Grant) |
| # 2928 | Philip Duncan | (sponsored by William Grant) |
| # 2927 | Roger Duncan | (sponsored by Paul Borack) |
| # 2926 | Rita Reinker | (sponsored by William Grant) |
| # 2925 | Ted Lopez | (sponsored by Phil Iversen) |
| # 2924 | Steve Kudler | (sponsored by William Grant) |

Congratulations to all of the above new members!

25-YEAR MEMBERSHIP PINS FOR 1998



PINS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE AWARDS RECOGNITION
EVENT EARLY IN 1999
TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

MYRON M. KLIMAN SM #127
JOE FLYNN, JR. SM #129
STEVE EYER SM #130
BARRY STUPPLER SM #132
ED HIPPS SM #159
THOMAS B. HAMILTON SM #174
FRED WEINBERG SM #260
TYE BUXTON SM #331
STEVE IVY SM #374

CENTsIBLE FACTs

Martha Stevenson, NLG

One of the most curious chapters in the history of paper money undoubtedly concerns the use of playing cards as legal tender. Playing cards have been around as early as A.D. 1392 according to an expense account of King Charles of France. The fifty-two card deck of four suits, though, is said to have originated in sixteenth century France, a century before their odd issuance as "playing-card money" in the New World territory of Canada.

France settled Canada in 1604. For over fifty years this new colonial possession had to be defended from British colonists to the south, and later from privately chartered companies who attempted to rule it. With control finally relinquished to the French royal government in 1663, thousands of soldiers were sent to defend the territory. These French soldiers were avid card players, and many carried their own deck of cards with them, playing whenever possible to break the monotony of military duty.

When funds from France were late in arriving to pay the troops, a method had to be devised to issue notes or "promises to pay." Since there was a shortage of good paper acting-governor Jacques de Meulles cleverly requisitioned playing cards and used their reverse sides as notes. On June 1, 1685 M. de Meulles made a proclamation announcing their use, making it mandatory for all to accept playing-card notes at full value in lieu of money or be subject to a fine. This money substitute continued to be used by local colonial government until 1719.

The French government, however, frowned on the use of playing-card money and actually forbade its use from 1718 to 1728. They offered to redeem the prohibited money at roughly half the face value, paying in bills of exchange on the French treasury. But holders of the playing-card money faced a dilemma: they could either take a big loss on redemption, or, perhaps an even bigger loss because the French government was in no condition to redeem all of the playing-card money issued, even at half the face value!

Several years later, the loss of Quebec to the British in 1759 gave the French government its opportunity to repudiate all claims on it for playing-card money. With the British takeover, currency declined sharply in value. Rumors spread that negotiations were being made with the British to redeem the playing-card money. Seizing their opportunity, speculators began to buy up the money at a fraction of its face value. Eventually, a good deal of the playing-card money was redeemed at about 25 percent of its face value, thus ending an interesting chapter in the history of paper money.

Author's Reference:

A Treasury of American Coins by Fred Reinfeld



35 GOLD COINS

Given Away at 3:30 p.m. September 6th
at the Golden State Coin Show



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TICKETS 50 CENTS EACH

A New Craven Home Video
(Press Release)

.900 FINE

The Story of the Carson City Silver Dollar

History buffs will be informed, silver dollar collectors will be enthralled and the rest of us will be entertained viewing a new release of a General Services Administration (G.S.A.) film recently pulled from U.S. government archives.

Just released is a video on the history of the early West and the Nevada's silver mines entitled *.900 Fine: The Story of the Carson City Silver Dollar*. It tells the story of hardships in mining the original silver ore, the famous Comstock load, the precarious existence of the Carson City Mint, and the discovery ninety years later of nearly three million silver cartwheels struck by the Carson City Mint.

The highly collectable silver coins were found during an audit in 1964 in the basement vaults of the U.S. Treasury in Washington, D.C., virtually undisturbed since their minting from between 1870 and 1893. Fortunately, Treasury officials recognized their great appeal to collectors and made plans for the distribution to the American public.

Congress enacted legislation allowing the sale, and President Nixon signed it into law December 31, 1970. Nixon is quoted to say "As we approach America's Bicentennial, this historic silver dollar is one of the most valued reminders of our national heritage." The G.S.A. was charged with the sale of the 2.9 million silver dollars.

But with rare insight, G.S.A. officials appropriately commissioned three filmmakers to produce the film, Jack La Covey, as executive producer and writer, Ron Van Nostrand as producer and photographer, and James Rogers as director and writer. The documentary is narrated by actor Burgess Meredith. The G.S.A.'s intent was to show this film only to its employees handling the coins, for they would have greater insight into these precious rarities. This unique film has never been shown to the public.

Also with rare insight, Hollywood filmmaker Mike Craven learned in 1997 of the film. Craven restored the original film and converted it to standard NTSC, 4:3 format for home viewing. The production is now available to the public for the first time. The film reveals dramatic footage, displays graphic images emphasizing the struggle of the Western frontier, re-enacts Virginia City during its heyday, and shows the G.S.A. packaging these rare coins for its unprecedented sale.

The 28-minute film opens with the unusual view of a Brinks semitrailer -- the firm's largest money mover -- loading some of the nearly 150 wooden crates, each containing 20 bags of 1000 silver dollars. The shipment moved under heavy armed guard to the Treasury's facility at West Point, north of New York City.

It was here that every bag was opened, the coins examined, sorted and graded. Each coin was placed in specially designed plastic holders, titled "Carson City Uncirculated Silver Dollar." A packaging line was set up -- with no handling of the coin after it was placed in the plastic -- to sonically seal the plastic container and insert it in mailing cartons.

Meanwhile the G.S.A. staged five limited mail-order bid sales to distribute the packaged coins. This effort resulted in \$55 million in sales, the largest offering by the U.S. government of historic U.S. coins in numismatic history!

Filmmaker Mike Craven has previously worked in film, television and video production for eighteen years and has worked on over 2,000 televised productions to his credit. Craven is the producer of a multi-hour documentary on the United States Mint, currently in production, to be released later this year. He has filmed U.S. Treasury officials, every living Mint Director, and renown numismatists for this documentary. His documentary on sculptor Laura Garden Fraser entitled *The Medal Maker* was issued last year received rave reviews and won the NLG's "Best Video" of the Year 1997.

The 28-minute VHS version of the documentary, *.900 Fine: The Story of the Carson City Silver Dollar*, will retail for \$12.95 plus \$4.35 S/H. It can be obtained from:

Craven Entertainment
P.O. Box 4012
Hollywood, CA 90078

Nevada History Fans Will Appreciate Video

This is the film one would expect to see at a state visitor center, museum or national park. Lasting twenty minutes, the C.C. dollars make a bulk appearance at the beginning, where the G.S.A. shows the movement of a crate of dollars from what seems to be endless lengths of hallways leading up from the basement of the Treasury Department in Washington D.C. to be loaded onto a truck.

Most of the coverage centers around the Nevada silver boom, Virginia City and silver mining. It eventually leads up to the famous G.S.A. C.C. dollars and the packaging, etc. Numismatists will chuckle seeing the pictures of some of the scruffy cartwheels.

NumisCAT rates (five is max) this video: Three coins

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& 6TH, 1998**

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THE ECKFELDT FAMILY and THE UNITED STATES MINT

Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald

Never before or since has one family such a long and continuous service and influence in such an important government institution for more than 133 years of uninterrupted service at the United States mints in Philadelphia and San Francisco, four generations and nine individuals of the Eckfeldt family held important posts. Was this a case of nepotism or just the fact that the younger members of the family followed in their elder's footsteps in career choices in government service that offered so much job security? Whatever the answer to this question, the Eckfeldt family exercised an inordinate influence over who was hired or appointed at the mint, the designs of our coinage and the striking of coins. For some of them, their service encompassed some unethical and illegal activities within the Philadelphia Mint. In fact, several members of this family played a significant role in the production and distribution of the U.S. silver dollar dated 1804.

John Jacob Eckfeldt - b. 1733 - d. 1/28/1818.

The patriarch of the Eckfeldt family was born in Nuremberg, Bavaria and came to America around 1764. Twice widowed, John married Marie Magdalena Schneider in 1764 (she died in 1773), Elizabeth Kunkle (she died in 1783 or 1784) and Elizabeth Bausch

Diament on October 12, 1785. John Eckfeldt owned a blacksmith and machine shop and built some of the first machinery for the mint including the first coin screw press.

Even prior to the establishment of the mint, John Eckfeldt made dies for Robert Morris of the Mint of North America in 1783 for which he was paid \$5.18.

(John) Adam Eckfeldt - b. 6/15/1769 - d. 2/6/1852.

Adam, as he was known, was born in Philadelphia, the son of John Jacob and Marie Magdalena Eckfeldt. He married Maria Hahn April 3, 1792. Adam served as an apprentice in his father's blacksmith and machine shop.

Adam Eckfeldt's association with the mint probably began in 1791 when he supervised the striking of the "Getz" Washington Head patterns for Robert Morris. It was these coins that caused George Washington to admonish that his bust should not appear on our coinage.

In 1792, Adam Eckfeldt had been working in the "Engraver's Department" at the mint. Utilizing sketches by Mint Director, David Rittenhouse, Eckfeldt designed the 1793 half cent, the first federal coin to depict a "liberty cap." These antedated the first "liberty cap" large cent by four months. Early in 1795, Adam was employed to do piecework at the Philadelphia facility. From July 1795 he was considered a permanent employee. In a mint payroll dated October 10, 1795, Eckfeldt was listed as "Die Forger and Turner" at a salary of \$500 per year. On January 1, 1796, he was appointed assistant coiner. In a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1806, Mint Director Patterson requested a pay raise of \$200 per year for Adam who was said to have "the management of the whole coining department." With the death of the chief coiner, Henry

Voight in February, 1814, Eckfeldt became chief coiner, a position he held for the next 25 years until his retirement in 1839.

Eckfeldt designed and built much of the machinery for the new mint of 1833 and directed the establishment of the mint cabinet (collection) beginning in 1838. Upon his retirement, he was presented a 51 mm gold medal from the mint in recognition for his service. After his retirement he continued to visit the mint and work, without compensation, until he was unable to do so.

Jacob Reese Eckfeldt - b. March 1803 - d. 8/9/1872.

Born in Philadelphia, Jacob was the son of Adam Eckfeldt. He married Emily M. Levering on October 19, 1835. They had three sons.

Jacob R. Eckfeldt was appointed assayer at the Philadelphia Mint, April 30, 1832 and held this position for more than 40 years. He was co-author with his brother-in-law, William E. DuBois of *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* in 1842. This was the first time an illustration of a silver dollar (dated 1804) appeared in literature, and one published by no less an authority than a mint employee. He wrote *New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins* in 1851. Following his death, he was honored on the reverse of the 1873 Assay Medal.

Susanna Eckfeldt DuBois -

Susanna was the daughter of Adam Eckfeldt and the sister of Jacob R. Eckfeldt. She married William E. DuBois in 1840. William E. DuBois co-authored a book with Susanna's brother, Jacob R. Eckfeldt that illustrated an 1804 silver dollar for the first time (see above). William DuBois's grandfather was mint director Robert Patterson.

George J. Eckfeldt - b. 2/16/1805 - d. 11/20/1864.

George was the son of John Jacob and his second wife Elizabeth Kunkle Eckfeldt. He had two sons, John and Theodore. George Eckfeldt was foreman of the coining room from 1830 until after 1860, a period when his uncle Adam Eckfeldt was chief coiner and his nephew Jacob R. was assayer. Since George was foreman of the coining department at the mint in 1858 and had access to the dies, it must be assumed that he, with perhaps the assistance of other mint employees, was responsible for the "scandal of 1858" that produced the Class II 1804 silver dollars. Later edge lettering was added resulting in the class III 1804 dollars.

John M. Eckfeldt - b. 2/9/1831 - d. 1874.

The oldest of the two sons of George Eckfeldt to be employed by the U.S. Mint, John was Chief Coiner of the first San Francisco Mint shortly after its opening from 1854 until 1862.

Theodore Eckfeldt - b. 6/6/1837 d. 1893.

Theodore was the youngest son of George Eckfeldt, the nephew of Jacob Eckfeldt and the grandson of Adam Eckfeldt. Following the family line, Theodore was hired at the mint as a young man in the coining department under Franklin Peale. He was fired for stealing. About a month later, Peale, together with Adam Eckfeldt, wrote an affidavit testifying to Theodore's honesty in order that he could find employment. A few years later, Theodore was rehired on the strength of these references, . He was reassigned to Peale who made him a night watchman, a post of trust. It is believed Theodore was responsible for a

number of clashed die coins In 1857 and for restrikes of the 1827/3 quarters.

Jacob Bausch Eckfeldt - b. 2/12/1846 - 9/9/1938.

Jacob Bausch was employed as second weigher on April 15, 1865 and was promoted to assistant assayer on August 26, 1872. He was named assayer on December 21, 1881 following the death of his father, Jacob Reese Eckfeldt. He served on the assay commission in 1924 and 1926 and remained at the mint for 64 years until 1929.

Dr. Frederick Eckfeldt - 1857-1881.

Little is known of Frederick. He may have been the son of Jacob R. Eckfeldt and brother of Jacob Bausch Eckfeldt. A Frederick Eckfeldt appears on the mint's payroll records for 1857. He was listed as a member of the assay commission In 1881. His address was listed as the Bureau of the Mint.

Edward H. Eckfeldt Jr. -

Edward was a resident of Orange County, New Jersey. He was a descendent of Adam Eckfeldt of an unknown direct line. His collection was sold at auction by Thomas Elder, October 9-11, 1924. It included coins presumably passed down through the family Including an uncirculated half disme dated 1792.

SOURCES

Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. New York, 1988.

Newman, Eric P. and Kenneth E. Bressett. *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. Racine Wisconsin, 1962.

Smith, Pete. *American Numismatic Biographies*. Rocky River, Ohio, 1992.

Taxay, Don. *The U.S. Mint and Coinage*. New York, 1966. ☺



Betty Young

6-13-98

Dorothy Baber

Southern California lost a well known busy numismatic personality with the death of Betty Young of Oceanside, California. Betty had just recently been diagnosed with lung cancer and passed away at her home on Saturday, June 13, 1998

Betty, with husband *Pappy*, traveled far and wide with the numismatic hobby for the past 35 years. They were a popular, inseparable couple in all of the Southern California clubs, as well as members of California State Numismatic Association and American Numismatic Association, to name a few. She also held membership in the Hawaii State Numismatic Association, and visited the HSNA show in Honolulu every November.

Shortly after joining the Oceanside Carlsbad Coin Club, Betty became their Secretary and served in that position for 33 years, only giving up that post for the 1998 elections. She was the Young Numismatist Representative for the San Diego County Inter Club Numismatic Council for over ten years.

She received the San Diego County Council's Medal of Merit in 1990, and had been named a Krause Publications Numismatic Ambassador in 1988.

She is survived by husband Howard L. Young (*Pappy*), son Neil (*Skip*) and wife Winona of Brownsville Texas; daughter Beverley (*Mickey*) Urlie of Beaverton, Oregon, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Betty would have celebrated her 90th birthday in September.



James Betton
2-12-98

NASC President 1970 - 1971

Note: The following is from the March 8, 1998 issue of the
Bay Cities Coin Club newsletter.

In Remembrance

It is with a great amount of sadness that we announce the death of James L. Betton, Jr., a dear friend and colleague. He died after a sudden heart attack while at home at the age of 62. Jim was born and raised in Santa Monica, the eldest of two sons from the parents of two Santa Monica pioneer families. He attended the local schools including Santa Monica College before attending nearby UCLA where he graduated a pre-med major. He served his country for six years in the Marine Reserve. Jim was a boy scout and rose up to the rank of Eagle Scout and received the Order of the Arrow. He later became an assistant Scout Master and finally Scout Master. Always with an interest in youngsters, he helped them with craft classes at the local YMCA. He annually sponsored the Best Junior Foreign Exhibit by the American Numismatic Association.

Jim became interested in numismatics at an early age when his mother showed him a jar of older domestic and foreign coins the world many times. While touring Europe by motorbike, he learned of the impending sale of coins by King Farouk in Egypt and attended that memorable sale. He was lucky to leave the country without harm during the civil unrest during that period. At one time Jim once owned a rare 1954 English penny and often

told of the time that he turned down an offer to buy for \$800 one of five 1913 Liberty head nickels. He briefly owned a coin store with his good friend Lou Upton, but later sold the Santa Monica business. Later on he worked in town for Bubar's Jewelers and for his friend Joel Malter in Encino dealing in ancient and foreign coins.

Jim was the editor of *Money Talks*, a book of articles compiled from the publications of the California State Numismatic Association. He was appointed to this position by CSNA Charles Kappin with whom Jim stayed in touch with over the years. He also wrote numerous science fiction books under the pen name of Keith Laumer. This fact was not widely known, but you can find these at your favorite book store. He recently received an award from the Numismatic Association of Southern California for being the 2nd best editor in 1997 of a club bulletin - this one. Jim was a popular speaker at club meetings and spoke on a wide variety of numismatic topics. In 1995 he spoke at the CSNA Educational Symposium on the 1894 California Mid-Winter Exposition. This was the main joy of his collecting and his intent to donate it after he passed on to museum in northern California.

He contributed to the archives of the Santa Monica Historical Society, just as his mother had also done for many years. Jim was one of the founding member of the Society for International Numismatics and the driving force of this organization for many years it was his idea that led to the donation of the SIN library to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. He was president of the Bay Cities Coin Club (twice), NASC, COIN, Los Angeles Coin Club and active in most local clubs for more years than he wanted to remember. He was active in the Canadian Numismatic Association (10-year board member), American Numismatic Association, California Exonumist Society. He belonged to the American Numismatic Society, San Diego Numismatic Society, Santa Barbara Coin Club, West Valley and Culver City club, plus many other national & international groups in Mexico, Great Britain, the Philippines and more. Awards Jim received include the Aubrey Austin Memorial Award from the Bay Cities Coin Club (& Life Membership), the Silver Medal of Merit from SIN and the Numismatic Ambassador Award from Krause Publications.

On Saturday, February 21st, family, friends and neighbors attended a memorial service at the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints. Officiating was Bishop Norman Hammer. Those speaking were: Paul Betton, Dennis Betton, Mark Metzger, Richard Dysart, Joel Malter, Ben Abelson and Raymond Race. After the hour long event everybody was invited to the residence for refreshments. It was a warm, sunny day and most people were out in the yard as Jim would have wanted. He always took care of the yard and everybody was told that they would be allowed to take with them any of the many plants he lovingly nurtured.

He is survived by his brother Dennis, Stella Atwill (his aunt in Pacific Palisades) and Roberta Webb-French (his aunt in Lake Tahoe), 2 nephews, 1 niece and about 3 dozen cousins. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Dennis Betton at 323 Alan Circle, Sandy, Utah 84070.

Donations in Jim's memory can be made to any of the clubs that he belonged to. Jim was laid to rest all too soon at the family plot at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica.

Note to Bay Cities Coin Club: Let us know who the author of the above is so we can give him or her credit.



In Memoriam 1998:

Charles Colver
John M. Barnes
James L. Betton
Betty Young

All will be missed by many



Golden State Coin Show

September 5, 6, 1998
Pasadena Center

Bourse Information: (909) 864-7617

Bill Grant
P.O. Box 295
Patton, CA 92369-0295

E-mail: MESARED@aol.com

ANA HONORS SBCCC ON IT'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

William Grant



The San Bernardino County Coin Club (SBCCC) celebrated its 50th anniversary in style on Saturday, June 27, 1998. Fifty-eight members and guests including 10 past presidents, gathered at the San Bernardino Hilton Hotel to celebrate 50 years of club history and numismatic vested interests. The evening was full of flair, style and entertaining, plus a delightful dinner with the music of the "Joe Bagg Trio" in the background.

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) was well represented with Governors Helen Carmody, Kay Lenker and Region 8 Coordinator Walter Ostromecki.

The evening was highlighted by two special events, the first of which was when President Ethel Lenhert read portions of the twenty letters and proclamations congratulating SBCCC on it's golden anniversary.

The club received recognition from President Bill Clinton for it's outstanding service to numismatics for the City of San Bernardino. Letters and proclamations recognized the accomplishments of the club over the past 50 years.

ANA Governors Helen Carmody and Kay Lenker presented the club with a plaque and a proclamation for it's leadership and

services to numismatics.

Honored at the Banquet were two very surprised members, Bill and Freddie Grant. They were presented ANA's Presidential Award by ANA Governor Kay Lenker for outstanding contributions to the American Numismatic Association and the coin collecting community. In addition Ethel Lenhert presented Bill and Freddie with SBCCC life membership numbers 4 and 5.

Another surprised member was Virginia Hall who was presented the ANA's Presidential Award for her continued contributions to the numismatic community. Husband Albert Hall was also a surprised member when he was presented the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award for his outstanding service to the Association and numismatics. Both awards were presented by Helen Carmody.

During the evening's festivity, five members related experiences, anecdotes and interesting stories of past events. Barbara Burke (wife of founder Bryan Burke) remembered the early days telling how Bryan got the club started.

Members were reminded of the club's highest award, the *Fred Coops Medal of Merit Award* presented for "outstanding service" to members who perform duties "above and beyond the call of duty." Also highlighted was the *Member of the Year Award*, given annually to a deserving member.

A one item auction was held from the estate of John Lenker. A roll of 40 aluminum nickels (13.4 X 1 cm each) was auctioned to the highest bidder. Enthusiastic club member Joyce Kuntz was the proud winner.

The evening concluded with a patron program drawing, and raffle drawing for six gold coins. Table center pieces were distributed to guests. It was an event that will be remembered for many years to come.

UNCOPYRIGHTABLE

It is the only 15-letter word without any repeating letters!

Los Angeles Coin Club Celebrates 70th Anniversary

ANA Honors Club and Members

Dr. Walt Ostromecki, NLG

For a brief few hours on the evening of June 4, 1998, time seemed to gaze back to the late 1920s - 1928 to be exact. Sixty-eight members and guests gathered at a recreation center in the Wilshire district to celebrate the 70th anniversary meeting of the Los Angeles Coin Club.

ANA President Anthony Swiatek and ANA Governor John Wilson (standing-in for California Governor Pete Wilson) jointly presented to LACC President Lynda Richard a plaque commemorating the club's 70th birthday. Swiatek lauded club members for their enthusiasm, dedication and spirit commenting, "this milestone could not have been reached without the devotion and support of so many past and present coin hobbyists during your 70 years. You are to be commended for your grass-roots level promotion of our hobby. I look forward to being in attendance at your 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary in 2003!"

The list of LACC presidents and other members who never became presidents reads like a Who's Who of California's most prestigious numismatists, and to some extent a national one. Eleven of the fourteen living past presidents were in attendance as were several long time members.

Swiatek recognized each "as truly remarkable volunteers and contributors to the advancement of coin collecting in the Los Angeles area. Local hobby leaders like yourself should be recognized and thanked for your outstanding service... and I'm here on behalf of the ANA to do just that!"

ANA Honors

Swiatek presented specially engraved ANA certificates of appreciation to: G. Lee Kuntz, 1959 (the club's most senior living past president); Murray Singer, 1960; Benjamin Abelson, 1971; Val Mogensen, 1974; Paul Borack, 1975 and 1987 and 1988; Mario Arguijo, 1976; Jerry Yahalom, 1977; Maurice Getz, 1982; Mike Rodriguez, 1985 and 1986; Walt Ostromecki, 1991 to 1993; Mary Yahalom, 1995 and 1996; and current president, Lynda Richard.

Kuntz, the most senior past president and the current president of the Numismatic Association of Southern California, remarked on behalf of his colleagues: "The LACC never ceased to assist other clubs with guidance, encouragement, leadership and programs. It became the *father club* to many other area clubs that were popping up all over southern California. It was always [and still is] 'What can we do to assist you or your club?'"

Also recognized were: John Hoffman, who joined the LACC in 1947, the club's most senior member; and Leonora Donald, the first woman editor of club's monthly newsletter "*The Wire Edge*." She published the local award winning bulletin for 10 years, from 1956 to 1967.

The historic meeting was also afforded Swiatek the opportunity to bestow upon three individuals the prestigious *ANA Presidential Award*. Those recognized and honored for outstanding contributions to the ANA and the local coin collecting community were: Murray Singer, Paul Borack and Walt Ostromecki. Ironically, the latter LACC's 50th president by the ANA's 50th president. Their combined total of hobby time and service is 137 years.

Murray G. Singer became the first recipient of ANA Region 8's *Outstanding Hobby Mentor of the Year Award*. Singer was recognized by Regional Coordinator Ostromecki "for his dedicated and major role in making the local coin hobby and the coin club experience more fun, enjoyable and rewarding to countless others over past fifty years." Singer reflected, "it is truly remarkable that I should be singled out for this honor. I was just one of many who helped the club [and the local hobby] flourish through the years. We were then and are still a group dedicated to

promoting the fun of coin collecting. The friendships and numismatic camaraderie make our club and hobby all the more fun. Thank you for this special honor."

ANA Region 8 Coordinator Ostromecki noted, "this award will presented annually to one outstanding numismatic mentor within the region. Hence forth the award will bear Murray Singer's name, a truly outstanding hobby mentor for over sixty years. It was Murray who encouraged me to join the West Valley Coin Club in 1964 and become active within the hobby, because it is fun, educational and rewarding. Murray even went so far as to pay my first year dues, something he has repeatedly done for many youngsters and hobby upstarts over the years. He been a great friend and hobby mentor ever since. It is only fitting that an award of this type be named in his honor."

A limited edition specially designed 70th anniversary commemorative souvenir card-placemat was given to all present by John Wilson.

Club History

The kinship of the LACC with the ANA has been long and prosperous. The club hosted the 1958 ANA Los Angeles show, with an able committee of 115 under the direction of Earl Whitehead, 1956 LACC president. Attendance was 1,358. The club co-sponsored with the NASC the 1975 convention which broke all previous attendance records at 14,000. Several club members served on the 1995 Anaheim committee as well.

The groundwork for the LACC—which would be known until 1947 as the California Coin Club—was laid at the ANA Hartford, Connecticut convention. Farran Zerbe suggested that the City of Los Angeles was ideal for the forming of a coin club. Charles Markus, then ANA president, left on a "Numismatic-Pleasure Trip " in December of 1927. January 1928 found him in Los Angeles forming the nucleus of a coin club.

On page 158 of the March 1928 *Numismatist* Markus announced: "To the members of the ANA—Greetings from California. What heretofore has been considered impossible has at

last been accomplished. The California Coin Club was instituted on Saturday, January 28, 1928 with nine members as a starter and more than 25 prospects in sight to be taken in later. I have met a host of ANA members and I hereby tender them my sincere thanks for the many courtesies extended."

Mr. John P. Kennedy was elected president and Dr. Walter Hertzog was chosen as secretary and treasurer. The \$50 California octagonal gold piece of 1851 was immediately adopted as the official emblem of the club. The average attendance during 1928 was fifteen members. A board of governors was selected in 1929.

Howard Newcomb of Detroit spent the winter of 1928 in Los Angeles and gave several interesting talks before the club. The first meetings were held in Room 701 of the Bank of Italy Building (now Bank of America) on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Thirteen of the club's original sixteen charter members became nationally known specialty collectors, researchers and authors of then major ground breaking numismatic works. A few of these notables included: Michael Carey, *Emperor's of Rome*; Dr. Charles Harbeck, *The History of Roman Coinage*; Edward Lee, *California Gold Pieces*; Dr. R. H. Swift, *Parthenian Coins*; Howard Newcomb, *Large Cents (?)*; and Earl Stanton, *Roman Coinage*. In 1948 the California Coin Club changed its name to the Los Angeles Coin Club. This allowed a new state organization to be called the California State Numismatic Association. Several LACC members have held top leadership positions in CSNA over the years.

In 1954 when the NASC was being organized, LACC was at the forefront of the membership drive. They also hosted and provided the manpower for several early NASC conventions until the association itself could take on the full weight and responsibility of such a massive numismatic undertaking. LACC has supplied many clubs and organizations with outstanding hobby leaders. Twenty-five individuals have gone on to serve as president of the NASC, the most from any California club. By the mid 1950s LACC membership had grown to over 400. Average meeting attendance was 115, with several bourse dealers set-up in the back of the room at each meeting.

The club has issued four medals, several elongates and numerous wooden nickels to mark many of its historic milestones over the past 70 years. "All were special, but none more so than in 1976," commented Jerry Yahalom. "In that year, we issued an elongated 2 peso Mexican gold coin to all our past presidents. These were imprinted with our club logo and the date, 1928-1976. It is one of my most treasured possessions."

To commemorate LACC's 500th meeting in 1969, Eileen Lawson complied, published and distributed a comprehensive club history booklet to the membership. A revised and updated version was distributed at the 775th meeting in 1992.

Today the LACC is still a vibrant numismatic force within the Los Angeles area. Membership stands at just a little over 100. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Westside Recreation Center, 141 S. Gardner Street, Los Angeles, California. Guests are welcome. For more information or to inquire about the availability of past club medal and wood issues, write: LACC c/o Murray Singer, 432 5. Curson, #7E, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

John Hoffman is recognized by ANA President Anthony Swiatek for being LACC's most senior active member. He joined in 1947.



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CLUB Report

Harold Katzman

SEARCHING FOR TREASURERS

The March meeting of the Bay Cities Coin Club noted the passing of long time member, friend and colleague James L. Betton Jr., an active member of the club and other clubs within the Southern California area. In March Ethel Lenhert spoke on "Missions of California." There was no meeting in April since the meeting date fell on Easter Sunday. John Forrey presented a program titled "Searching for Buried Treasure - The Easy Way" in May.

THE 1804 DOLLAR

The "King of Coins" was the program presented at the February meeting of the Covina Coin Club by Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald. The "King" of course is the 1804 Dollar. Tom spoke about the coin's history and its passing of hands. The March meeting had Bill Grant speaking on "Grant on Grant." This presentation was about the life and times of President Grant (Ulysses S. not Bill). Bill also shared the numerous medals & tokens featuring Grant. April saw Lloyd Beachaine speak on the "Evolution of Copper Coins." The club's annual show was held at a new location, the Masonic Temple in Arcadia which has more parking than their former site.

SHOW & TELL NIGHT

The March meeting of the Culver City Coin Club was Show & Tell Night. Those participating included: Marcia King, Kennedy collector's set; Frank Kish, slot machine club cards and gambling chips; John Forrey, silver & brass rounds from Las Vegas; Steve

Demmer, coins found in circulation; & Edith Quigley, U.S. native wild cats. April had Phil Iverson speaking on "Numismatic References." Phil enlightened everyone on the many excellent reference books available to collectors. In May Harold Katzman spoke on "My Ten Favorite Numismatic Items."

EL NINO WASHES OUT MEETING

The February meeting of the Downey Numismatists was to have had Steve Davis as speaker. However the rainy weather and his son's illness prevented him from attending. As it was, only eight members showed up. They spent their time sharing numismatic stories. March did have Steve as speaker. His topic was "My Favorite Israel Medals & Related Judaica." The club noted the passing of long time member Stan Jezioriski.

SUPER AUCTION

Super Auction night was the March program before the Fontana United Numismatists. Over 160 items were on the auction block. Norm Sturgess gave a surprise program titled "The Evolution of a Pack Rat" at the April meeting. The surprise being that his announced program was to have been either "Post Card Collecting" or "Coin Scales." Instead it consisted of Norm sharing his collecting interests, how he got started and where they led. Norm collects, among other items, Coins of Japan, Coin Scales & Collectible Paper. The May meeting had Dr. Shelby Wagner speaking on "The Gold of California."

CLUB DONATES TO LOCAL LIBRARY

Jeff Stahl gave a new program at the march meeting of the Garden Grove Orange Coast Coin Club (now the Greater Orange County Coin Club). He spoke on "National Bank Notes." The Club had six guests in attendance of which four joined the Club. So far this year the Club has added 15 new members. Not Bad.

The members voted to buy a 3-year subscription to *COINS* magazine to be donated to the Westminster Library. In April Bob

Smythe spoke on Russia. May was to have Jerry Kleeb speak on "Philippine Paper Money."

A THREE-MONTH COIN GRADING CLASS

During the February, March, & April meetings of the Glendale Coin Club the members viewed a coin grading video. In March the club celebrated its 39th birthday. Some of the early founding members are still active in the club, such as Murray Singer (Member #22). Also at the March meeting, member Tom Redmond gave each junior a selection of Irish coins. In May Rick Williams, a professor at Glendale College, was the featured speaker.

100 MINT STATE 1877 CENTS

The March meeting of the Heartland Coin Club had Vernon Reed provide a short program on his experiences using the internet to purchase coins & other numismatic items. In April Vernon spoke about 100 mint state 1877 Indian Head Cents. Oh, by the way, did I mention that those Indians turned out to be postage stamps?

UP IN THE AIR

The February meeting of the Hemet Numismatists had Stu Belenson speak on the old WWII Ryan School of Aeronautics located in Hemet. There is a museum located in one of the two remaining 4-man cadet bungalows at the Hemet-Ryan Airport. Over 10,000 pilots were trained here during WWII. In March Angus Bruce shared a slide program titled "Fact or Fiction Notes?" Randy Briggs spoke on "The Thrill of the Chase" at the April meeting.

MUSIC & ISRAEL

"Trade Coins of Israel," an AINA slide program, was the March program before the Israel Numismatic Society/Israel Coin Club of

LA. Alex Shagin spoke on "Jewish Subjects in Medalllic Culture" in April. Alex had many beautiful works of art in medals, tokens on display as part of his talk. In May Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald covered "Music & Ancient Jewish Coins."

THE PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Gwen Heistand spoke on the "Legend of Caletto, the creator of Alta & Baja California," before the February meeting of the Long Beach Coin Club. Gwen shared with the Club the coins that circulated in the early years of California. March saw ANA Governor Helen Carmody talk on her participation on the ANA Board of Governors. At the March meeting, President Ed Casaus resigned. At a special board meeting, Gwen Heistand and Roy Iwata were elected president & vice-president respectfully. May saw Dr. Sol Taylor speak on "The Lincoln Cent."

THE CAPTAINS & THE KINGS

The February meeting of the Los Angeles Coin Club had the following members do Show & Tell: Karin Azzouri, An 1822 10-Dirham Morroco coin; Ben Kondo, an 1855 Philippine Coin; George Bosna, a 60th Anniversary PNC of the Los Angeles Coin Club; Murray Singer, Picture of the Los Angeles Coin Club in 1961- 62. March saw Paul Borack present a program on "U.S Postage & Fractional Currency." In the March bulletin, club President Lynda Richard took the time to honor the Los Angeles Coin Club's Captains & Kings. She recognized the following members (with first membership year in ()): Murray Singer (1953), George Bosna (1956), Ben Kondo (1965), Jerry Yahalom (1968) and Paul Borack (1969).

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The February meeting of the Oceanside Carlsbad Coin Club noted a changing of the guard. The 515th meeting saw a new Secretary Frank Trutta replacing Betty Young, who served in that roll for over 30 years. Betty became secretary in 1964. Except for

a couple of years in which she was busy traveling, she handled the job. In 1988 she and her husband "Pappy" became the first "Married Couple" to receive Numismatics News, AMBASSADOR AWARD. Everyone wishes Betty a wonderful "Retirjnent". Other new officers include: Rob Healy, President and George Schomacher, Vice-President.

PHYSIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF A NUMISMATIST

The March meeting of the San Bernardino County Coin Club had Randy Briggs and Rolly Mendel present a Program on "Lincoln & the Civil War." Rolly had four tables of Civil War Items on display. March attendees heard Kevin Brecht talk on "Mint Errors." Kevin had on display many different Mint errors made not only at the US mints, but by foreign mints as well. April saw Dr. Warburton Miller talk on "Physiological Profile of a Numismatist." Dr. Miller provided examples of a physiological profile. ☺

On the Internet? Check out the Numismatic Association of Southern California's page:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~beedon/nasc.htm>
which includes NASC information and links to other numismatic & hobby pages, such as NumisCAT.

An Offering Submitted Anonymously:

In the recent General Motors-vs-U.A.W. strike, Detroit management called upon the Denver Mint hoping to borrow their skilled and metallurgically-minded workers to help in the assembly of automobiles.

The Denver Mint officials declined and responded with a singing telegram: "Non-D-Mint-A-CAR!"

(Reward for the name of the sender: one circulated SBA dollar)

NASC CLUB DIRECTORY

ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES - Meets 2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Coast Federal Bank, 10101 Riverside Drive, Toluca Lake; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 227, Canoga Park, CA 91305.

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Santa Monica Public Library, Sixth and Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 943, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOKEN COLLECTORS - Meets 3rd Saturday or Sunday of odd-numbered months, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at members' homes and other locations. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066.

CALIFORNIA EXONUMIST SOCIETY (CES) - Meets quarterly at GSCS and CSNA Conventions; All day show in June or July; Mailing Address: 611 Oakwood Way, El Cajon, CA 9202 1.

CALIFORNIA STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (CSNA) - Meets twice a year during CSNA Conventions at various locations; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785.

COLLECTORS OF THE REALM - Meets 1st Thursday, 8:00 p.m., The Elegant Manor, 3115 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 29092, Hollywood, CA 90020.

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATICS (C.O.I.N.) - Meets annually at Golden State Coin Show, plus three Board meetings a year; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6909, San Diego, CA 921666909.

COVINA COIN CLUB - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Covina Park Recreation Hall, 340 Valencia, Covina; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785.

CULVER CITY COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Veteran's Memorial Building, Urupan Room, Culver and Overland, Culver City; Mailing Address: Paul Borack, 3125 W. Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, CA 90292.

DOWNEY NUMISMATISTS - Meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., California Federal Savings & Loan, 821 1 Firestone Blvd., Downey; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 165, Downey, CA 90241.

FONTANA UNITED NUMISMATISTS - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Recreation Room, Ayala Park, 18313 Valley Blvd., Bloomington, CA 92316; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 71, Fontana, CA 92335.

GREATER ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB * - Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Community Room, 12860 Euclid (1 block north of Garden Grove Blvd.), Garden Grove; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2335, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

GLENDALE COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Glendale Federal Bank, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Mailing Address: Greg Burns, 327 W. Delaware Road, Burbank, CA 91504.

HEARTLAND COIN CLUB * - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Bostonia Park Recreation Building, El Cajon; Mailing Address: c/o Jack Hook, 7603 Lawford Place, Lemon Grove, CA 91945.

HEMET NUMISMATISTS - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 12:00 Noon, Provident Savings Bank, 1600 Florida Avenue (Northwest Corner Giard and Florida), Hemet; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3082, Hemet, CA 92546.

ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY/ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES * - Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Los Angeles Westside Recreation Center, 141 S. Gardner Ave., Los Angeles; Mailing Address: 432 S. Curson, #7E, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

LEISURE WORLD COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Clubhouse No. 3, Room 2, Seal Beach Leisure World; Mailing Address: c/o Richard Precker, 13240 Twin Hills Drive, #44F, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

LITTON COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., 5500 Canoga Avenue, Building 32, Room #3, Woodland Hills; Mailing Address: c/o Wait Wegner, Box 521, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

LONG BEACH COIN CLUB - Meets 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m., Los Altos United Methodist Church, 5950 East Willow St., Long Beach; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8101, Long Beach, CA 90808.

LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB * - Meets 1st Friday, 7:30 p.m., Los Angeles Westside Recreation Center, 141 S. Gardner Ave., Los Angeles; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3637, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD COIN CLUB * - Meets 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Department of Parks & Recreation Building, 12240 Archwood St., North Hollywood; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 227, Canoga Park, CA 91305.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (NCNA) - Meets 5 times a year, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4104, Vallejo, CA 94590.

OCEANSIDE CARLSBAD COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Garrison School, 333 Garrison Ave., Oceanside; Mailing Address: 2307 Dunstan Road, Oceanside, CA 92054.

REDLANDS COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Smiley Library, 125 W. Vine St., Redlands; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6909, San Diego, CA 92166.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB - Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (except November which is 1st Thursday), San Bernardino County Museum, Fisk Auditorium (1-10 & California Street to Museum), Redlands; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 295, Patton, CA 92369.

SANTA BARBARA COIN CLUB - Meets 4th Monday (except July and December), 7:30 p.m., MacKenzie Park, Recreation Room, Las Positas Road at McCaw Ave., Santa Barbara; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6205, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park Ave., Santa Maria; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7186, Santa Maria, CA 93456.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATICS (SIN) - Meets 2nd Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Santa Monica Public Library, Sixth and Santa Monica, Santa Monica; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 943, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

TUSTIN COIN CLUB * - Meets 1st Friday, 7:30 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, 200 South 'C' Street, Tustin; Mailing Address: c/o Roy Iwata, P.O. Box 2449, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

UNCAP INTERNATIONAL - For handicapped numismatists. Write for meeting details: c/o Bob Vick, 2613 Huron Street, Los Angeles, CA 90065.

UPLAND COIN CLUB - Meets 3rd Saturday, 8:00 p.m., Magnolia Recreation Center, 651 W. 15th Street, Upland; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785.

VENTURA COUNTY COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Church of Christ, Auxiliary Room, 5401 Telegraph Road, Ventura; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3263, Ventura, CA 93003.

VERDUGO HILLS COIN CLUB - Meets 2nd Monday, 7:15 p.m., Glendale Federal Savings & Loan, 2350 Honolulu Ave., Montrose; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 26, Tujunga, CA 91043.

WEST VALLEY COIN CLUB - Meets 4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Glendale Federal Bank, 10324 Balboa Blvd. (at Devonshire), Granada Hills, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4159, Panorama City, CA 91412.

WHITTIER COIN CLUB *- Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Casa Whittier Retirement Home, (number?) Jordan Ave., Whittier, Mailing Address: 540 Teakwood Ave., La Habra, CA 90605.

* Changed since last issue. Also, five clubs were deleted.

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